

KE 00 Terious Yugoslav Disease Lead Poisoning, Ohioan Suspects

CLEVELAND: A Cleveland scientist believes he can find the cause of a strange and baffling type of kidney disease from which 30,000 to 30,000 persons are dying in a small area of Yugoslavia.

It is a chronic type of kidney disease. Whatever causes it has been there a long time. In World War I, 30,000 U. S. troops in this area were hospitalized with kidney ailments, and it is rumored German troops in the same area were stricken in World War II.

Dr. Charles H. Rammelkamp Jr., chief of medicine at Metropolitan General Hospital and professor of medicine at Western Reserve University here, is sure the trouble is lead poisoning, although radiation, uranium, viruses

and streptococci also have been suspected.

THE AREA, known as Yugoslavia's "breadbasket," is rich farm land. On one side of the Sava River, the Mississippi of the country, are plains and farms; on the other are mountains and streams.

Hundreds of years ago the Turks built many mills on the streams, using the water power to run grindstones. Farmers from the surrounding area took their corn to these mills to be ground.

Through the centuries the mill stones have worn and chipped. The holes should have been filled with melted alum, but some millers found it easier and cheaper to fill them with melted lead, Dr. Rammelkamp learned.

ALTHOUGH THE victims

of the kidney ailment had no symptoms of lead poisoning, lead is a cumulative poison and the slight lead pollution of the grain slowly may have taken its toll among older residents.

In any event, Dr. Rammelkamp is sending Dr. Robert Griggs of his staff to Yugoslavia this month. Griggs will take 45 persons from unaffected and affected villages. He will give them a drug which mobilizes lead accumulated in the body and eliminates it in the urine.

Blood and grain samples will be sent to the U. S. for tests.

If the tests prove lead poisoning, Rammelkamp will direct local authorities on what to do.

The National Heart Institute will finance the project.

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Lincoln Heights GOP Club Installs

David A. Bradley has been elected president of the Lincoln Heights Republican Club. Installation ceremonies were held recently at the Masonic Hall in Lincoln Heights.

George Bernhart was the installing officer. New officers were introduced by the retiring president, Sim Thompson.

Other new officers include Nicholas Stenson, vice president; Mrs. Doris Cole, secretary; Lonnie Bennett, assistant secretary; Theodore Davis, corresponding secretary, and Luther T. Lyle, treasurer.

Why Not?

ALBERT LEA, MINN. (UPI): Joe Sparks is the fire chief here.